



Archives & Records Association UK & Ireland

Joint statement of intent for the heritage sector – June 2020

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As signatories of this Joint statement of intent for the heritage sector the Archives and Records Association is committed to actively addressing the challenges set for our sector. We will build upon and expand our work in addressing issues of diversity and inclusion in the record-keeping sector and urge our members to support our efforts. We also call on our colleagues in the wider record-keeping sector to support today's statement of intent and work with us to create permanent and positive change across archives, records management and conservation.

Karl Magee, Chair, Archives and Records Association

Joint statement of intent for the heritage sector

The Black Lives Matter movement began in America after a series of killings of black people in or following police custody. The movement has resonance in the UK, not least because of our nation's history in which racism has become entrenched.

As the leading membership bodies representing the UK museums, galleries, heritage and archives we take responsibility for ending racism in the heritage sector. This work is overdue. This work is non-negotiable. It cuts across all aspects of our sector, from the collections we curate and preserve, the people who make up the heritage workforce, to the learning programmes we deliver.

The conversation and the action is ongoing.

We commit to pro-actively support :

- **representing our members across the heritage sector, acknowledging that our nation's history and heritage is an invaluable tool in the fight against racism and discrimination.**
- **anti-discrimination debate and discussion in the care of and access to heritage collections.**
- **seeking, and taking care of the needs of a diverse heritage workforce.**
- **members to develop diverse collections.**
- **asking questions and challenging practices that support racism in all of its forms.**
- **that now is the time to be anti-racist.**
- **doing the work involved to end discrimination here and now.**

Signees:

- The Group for Education in Museums (GEM)
- The Association of Independent Museums (AIM)

- The International Council of Museums UK (ICOM UK)
- The Museums Association
- The Heritage Alliance
- Engage
- The Archives and Records Association (UK and Ireland)